

In the claims:

1. An animal faeces collector device (1) comprising a collapsible elongate handle means (2) provided at a distal (4) end with a receptacle support means (6) supporting a receptacle (8) having an upwardly facing deposition surface (10) in a deployed condition of the device for receiving a faecal deposit (24) thereon, said elongate handle means (2) and said receptacle support means (6) being formed and arranged for supporting the receptacle (8) in empty and faecally loaded conditions thereof, and said elongate handle means (2), said receptacle support means (6) and said receptacle (8) being formed and arranged so as to be collapsible into a highly compact pocketable form in a collapsed state of the device, and to be deployable to a substantially self supporting state in a deployed empty state of the device, said device being of lightweight form of construction with said handle means (2) and said receptacle support means (6) formed and arranged so as to have a load bearing capability, at least in use of the device, which is just sufficient for bearing, in cantilevered support, the turning moment exerted by said handle means (2) and said receptacle (8) in an empty condition for enabling substantially positive remote manipulation of said empty receptacle (8) into a faeces-receiving position on the ground substantially below an animal's anus in use of the device; said handle means (2) and receptacle support means (6) being formed and arranged with a tensile strength and substantially restricted rigidity and a lightness of construction, to maximise collapsibility into a highly compact pocketable form and to facilitate easy and economic disposability of the device, and which load bearing capability is substantially insufficient for bearing, in cantilevered support, the turning moment exerted by the receptacle (8) in a faecally loaded condition thereof; whilst enabling the

receptacle (8) to be captively suspended in a faecally loaded condition thereof by said handle means (2) for conveyance of the faecally loaded device to a disposal site, in use of the device, characterised in that in said deployed condition of the device said receptacle (8) is supported substantially equally around the receptacle support means (6) by a rim portion (12) and that said rim portion (12) of said receptacle (8) may move on said receptacle support means (6) from a first position with said deposition surface (10) of said receptacle (8) in said upwardly facing orientation to a second position on a portion of said receptacle support means (6) with said deposition surface (10) loaded with faeces (24) and the rim portion of said receptacle (12) collected together over the contents of the receptacle (8).

2. An animal faeces collector device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said device (1) is formed and arranged so as to be inflatable from said collapsed state to said substantially self-supporting state.

3. An animal faeces collector device (1) as claimed in claim 1 wherein said elongate handle portion (2) and said receptacle support means (6) are inflatable and are in fluid communication with each other.

4. An animal faeces collector device (1) as claimed in claim 1 wherein the receptacle (8) is provided with a foot engagement portion (22), formed and arranged for engaging, in use, with the underside of a user's foot so as to allow the raising of the handle (2) and the receptacle support means (6) up from the ground.

5. An animal faeces collector device (1) as claimed in claim 1 wherein the material used in the construction of the inflatable device is of a light, flexible, waterproof plastic sheet material selected from the group including polyvinylchloride, polyamide, polyalkene or polyethylene.

6. An animal faeces collector device (1) as claimed in claim 1 wherein the material used in the construction of the inflatable device is biodegradable.

7. An animal faeces collector device (1) as claimed in claim 1 wherein said deposition surface (10) when in said deployed condition has a diameter of from 5 cm to 30 cm.

8. An animal faeces collector device (1) as claimed in claim 1 wherein said deposition surface (10), when in said deployed condition has a diameter of from 10 to 20 cm.

9. An animal faeces collector device (1) as claimed in claim 1 wherein said handle (2) and receptacle support means (6) comprises two inflatable tubes inflatable through a mouthpiece (16) at the top end (18) of said handle.